



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of

Atsushi YAMAGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2652

Application No.: 09/853,158

Examiner: C. Renner

Filed: May 11, 2001

Docket No.: 109500

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

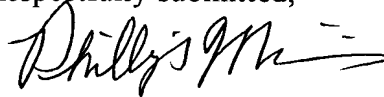
In reply to the April 28, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-5, which are drawn to a thin-film magnetic head. The election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the reference submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed with this application on May 11, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PDM/ccs

Date: May 8, 2003

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